small savings scheme is under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Consultations with States on budget proposals

1442. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government sought the opinion of State Governments relating to the budget proposal; and

(b) if so, how many State Governments responded and whether any State Government is yet to respond and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The annual plans of State Governments are finalized by the Planning Commission after detailed discussions with the State Governments. The Finance Ministry, in consultation with the Planning Commission, finalizes the budgetary support for the Annual Plan, which is included in the Budget.

Compensation to US-64 unit holders

1443. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to compensate the former US-64 unit-holders who suffered heavily during equity market slump in 2001 and were later allowed redemption in May/ June 2003 at the rate of Rs 12/- per unit upto 5000 units held per individual and at the rate of Rs. 10/- in excess of 5000 units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total gain that has accrued to the Government as on 28th February, 2005 due to spurt in the prices of the PSU Units that Government acquired while liquidating US-64 Scheme in 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No Sir. In order to protect the interest of investors, the investors of US 64 scheme of the erstwhile UTI were paid special